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APR 12 2010

KENNETH E. MAYER
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS II
Deputy Director



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

April 9, 2010

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Commissioner Demar Dahl
Elko County Board of Commissioners
569 Court St.
Elko, NV 89801

Re: Bishop Creek Dam Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Dahl:

This letter is to confirm the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) support for the reconstruction of Bishop Creek Dam north of Wells as expressed at our meeting of August 6, 2009.

It is our understanding that financial support for the reconstruction comes with a requirement that some recreational value be attained in addition to the apparent value as an irrigation reservoir. Project proponents predict that sufficient water will be available in the reservoir to support a recreational fishery. An agreement securing public access would be a requisite before we could participate in the development of a fishery.

At this time, it is thought that water quality characteristics at Bishop Creek Reservoir would be conducive to the establishment of a warmwater fishery made up of crappie, catfish and black bass. NDOW would acquire and stock these species, relying on natural reproduction to expand and maintain the fishery. In order to sustain a fishery of this type water management practices need to be established which would provide adequate habitat to sustain this fishery from year to year.

NDOW would consider contributing to the construction costs for recreation facilities commensurate with the amount of actual angler and boating use. As we have no history with this reservoir, it is difficult to determine what level of facilities would be needed.

As Nevada is the driest state in the nation, the potential for new sport fisheries does not come along very often. NDOW remains committed to increasing recreational fishing opportunities within the state, and we look forward to a cooperative working relationship with the Metropolis Irrigation District, Elko County and the other cooperating entities.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Haskins II
Deputy Director

JE,RH:rh

cc: Daralyn Dobson, DCNR
John Elliott, NDOW